

Coconino County Board of Supervisors



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For Immediate Release

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Coconino Co. Fire Ban Begins 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 19

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Coconino County Board of Supervisors approved a ban on open burning on public and private lands in the unincorporated areas of the County. The ban takes effect at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 19 and will remain in effect until fire danger conditions subside.

The County's fire ban includes all open fires, campfires, fireworks and other pyrotechnic displays on private and public lands in the unincorporated areas of the County. Excluded from the ban are petroleum-fueled stoves or lanterns, enclosed charcoal barbecue grills operated in residential yards and special events specifically approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"The continued dry weather has made for dangerous fire conditions throughout the County and much of the state," said County Supervisor Chairwoman Liz Archuleta. "It's our hope that imposing this ban will help to avoid additional devastating wildfires that threaten our communities."

The Board's decision to impose the ban is in conjunction with Stage 2 fire restrictions that begin Wednesday, June 19 on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests and within the City of Flagstaff. The fire ban in both forests includes:

- Open fires, including all campfires; charcoal, coal or wood stoves, including in developed campgrounds.
- The use of explosives.
- The use of any internal or external combustion engine without a spark-arresting device.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- The use of chainsaws between 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The discharge of firearms, except when engaged in a lawful hunt.

The Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department also enacted the following restrictions at county parks and natural areas:

- Camping is only permitted in designated campgrounds at Fort Tuthill County Park.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited outdoors and only allowed in designated areas and/or in enclosed vehicles.
- Parking is prohibited on grassy forested areas and allowed in designated parking areas.
- Open fires are prohibited. This includes campfires, charcoal grills, torches, fireworks and candles. Only liquid gas stoves are permitted in improved areas (cleared of all vegetation, typically on a cinder or gravel surface).

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Citizens are reminded to use caution when smoking cigarettes outdoors and to completely extinguish them. The use of any machinery that may emit sparks, such as chainsaws and welding equipment should be used with caution during the extreme fire danger period. Be prepared and have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.

While the fire ban may not specifically ban every type of fire-causing activity, residents and visitors are asked to use their best judgment when considering whether to engage in any activity that could spark a fire. Residents and visitors are reminded that they can be held legally responsible for causing any wildfire.

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